

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-35 (Canceled)

Claim 36. (Currently amended) A chemically modified ~~double-stranded short-interfering ribonucleic acid (siRNA)~~ nucleic acid molecule comprising a sense strand and ~~an~~ a separate antisense strand, wherein:

a. the nucleic acid molecule comprises a sense and a separate antisense strand, each strand having one or more pyrimidine nucleotides and one or more purine nucleotides;

b. each strand of said ~~siRNA~~ nucleic acid molecule is about independently 18 to about 27 nucleotides in length;

~~b. c. an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the antisense strand of said siRNA nucleic acid molecule comprises about 18 to about 27 nucleotides that are~~ is ~~complementary to a human platelet-derived endothelial cell growth factor (ECGF1) nucleotide RNA sequence corresponding to comprising SEQ ID NO:225 and are also complementary to the sense strand;~~

~~e. d. an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the sense strand of said siRNA nucleic acid molecule is complementary to the antisense strand and comprises a portion an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of said human ECGF1 nucleotide RNA sequence of about 18 to about 27 nucleotides comprising SEQ ID NO:225; and~~

d. e. said siRNA molecule comprises at least one 2'-O-methyl or 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro nucleotide: about 50 to 100 percent of the nucleotides in the sense strand and about 50 to 100 percent of the nucleotides in the antisense strand are chemically modified with modifications independently selected from the group consisting of

2'-O-methyl, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro, 2'-deoxy, phosphorothioate and deoxybasic modifications; and

f. one or more of the purine nucleotides present in one or both strands of the nucleic acid molecule are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides and one or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in one or both strands of the nucleic acid molecule are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.

Claim 37. (Canceled)

Claim 38. (Currently amended) The ~~siRNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein said ~~siRNA~~ nucleic acid molecule comprises one or more ribonucleotides.

Claims 39-47. (Canceled)

Claim 48. (Canceled)

Claim 49. (Canceled)

Claim 50. (Canceled)

Claim 51. (Currently amended) The ~~siRNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein ~~one~~ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-O-methyl pyrimidine nucleotides.

Claim 52. (Currently amended) The ~~siRNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein ~~one~~ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more purine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-deoxy purine nucleotides.

Claim 53. (Currently amended) The ~~siRNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein ~~one~~ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.

- Claim 54. (Currently amended) The ~~siRNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 47, wherein the sense strand includes a terminal cap moiety at the 5'-end, the 3'-end, or both of the 5' and 3' ends of said sense strand.
- Claim 55. (Currently amended) The ~~siRNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 54 ~~36~~, wherein said terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxy abasic moiety.
- Claim 56. (Currently amended) The ~~siRNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein ~~one~~ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more pyrimidine nucleotides present in said antisense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
- Claim 57. (Currently amended) The ~~siRNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein ~~one~~ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more purine nucleotides present in said antisense strand are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.
- Claim 58. (Currently amended) The ~~siRNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein ~~one~~ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more purine nucleotides present in said antisense strand ~~comprise~~ are 2'-deoxy[[-]] purine nucleotides.
- Claim 59. (Currently amended) The ~~siRNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~56~~ 36, wherein said antisense strand ~~comprises~~ includes a terminal phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage at the 3' end of said antisense strand.
- Claims 60-67. (Canceled)
- Claim 68. (Currently amended) The ~~siRNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 47 ~~36~~, wherein the 5'-end of said antisense strand includes a terminal phosphate group.
- Claim 69. (Currently amended) A composition comprising the ~~siRNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 36 ~~and in~~ a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

- Claim 70. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein 1, 2, or 3 of the purine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.
- Claim 71. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein the antisense strand, sense strand, or both the antisense strand and sense strand include a 3'-overhang of 1-3 nucleotides.
- Claim 72. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 71, wherein the nucleotides of the 3'-overhang are chemically modified to comprise one or more phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages, 2'-O-methyl ribonucleotides, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro ribonucleotides, 2'-deoxy ribonucleotides, universal base nucleotides, 5-C-methyl nucleotides, inverted deoxyabasic moieties, or a combination thereof.
- Claim 73. (New) A chemically modified nucleic acid molecule comprising a sense strand and a separate antisense strand, wherein:
- a. each strand of said nucleic acid molecule is independently 18 to 27 nucleotides in length;
  - b. an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the antisense strand of said nucleic acid molecule is complementary to a human platelet-derived endothelial cell growth factor (ECGF1) RNA sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:225;
  - c. an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the sense strand of said nucleic acid molecule is complementary to the antisense strand and comprises an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of said human ECGF1 RNA sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:225;
  - d. the sense strand includes a terminal cap moiety at the 5'-end, the 3'-end, or both of the 5' and 3' ends of the sense strand;

- e. one or more of the nucleotides present in the sense strand and one or more of the nucleotides present in the antisense strand are 2'-O-methyl modified nucleotides; and
- f. one to ten of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense strand and one to ten of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in the antisense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.

Claim 74.

(New) A chemically modified nucleic acid molecule, wherein:

- a. the nucleic acid molecule comprises a sense strand and a separate antisense strand, each strand having one or more pyrimidine nucleotides and one or more purine nucleotides;
- b. each strand of the nucleic acid molecule is independently 18 to 27 nucleotides in length;
- c. an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the antisense strand of the nucleic acid molecule is complementary to a human ECGF1 RNA sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 225;
- d. an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the sense strand of the nucleic acid molecule is complementary to the antisense strand and comprises an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the human ECGF1 RNA sequence;
- e. at least 50% of the nucleotides of each strand of said double stranded nucleic acid molecule comprise modified nucleotides having a sugar modification selected from the group consisting of 2'-O-methyl, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro, 2'-deoxy, and deoxyabasic modifications; and
- f. at least one of said sugar modifications is a 2'-O-methyl modification.